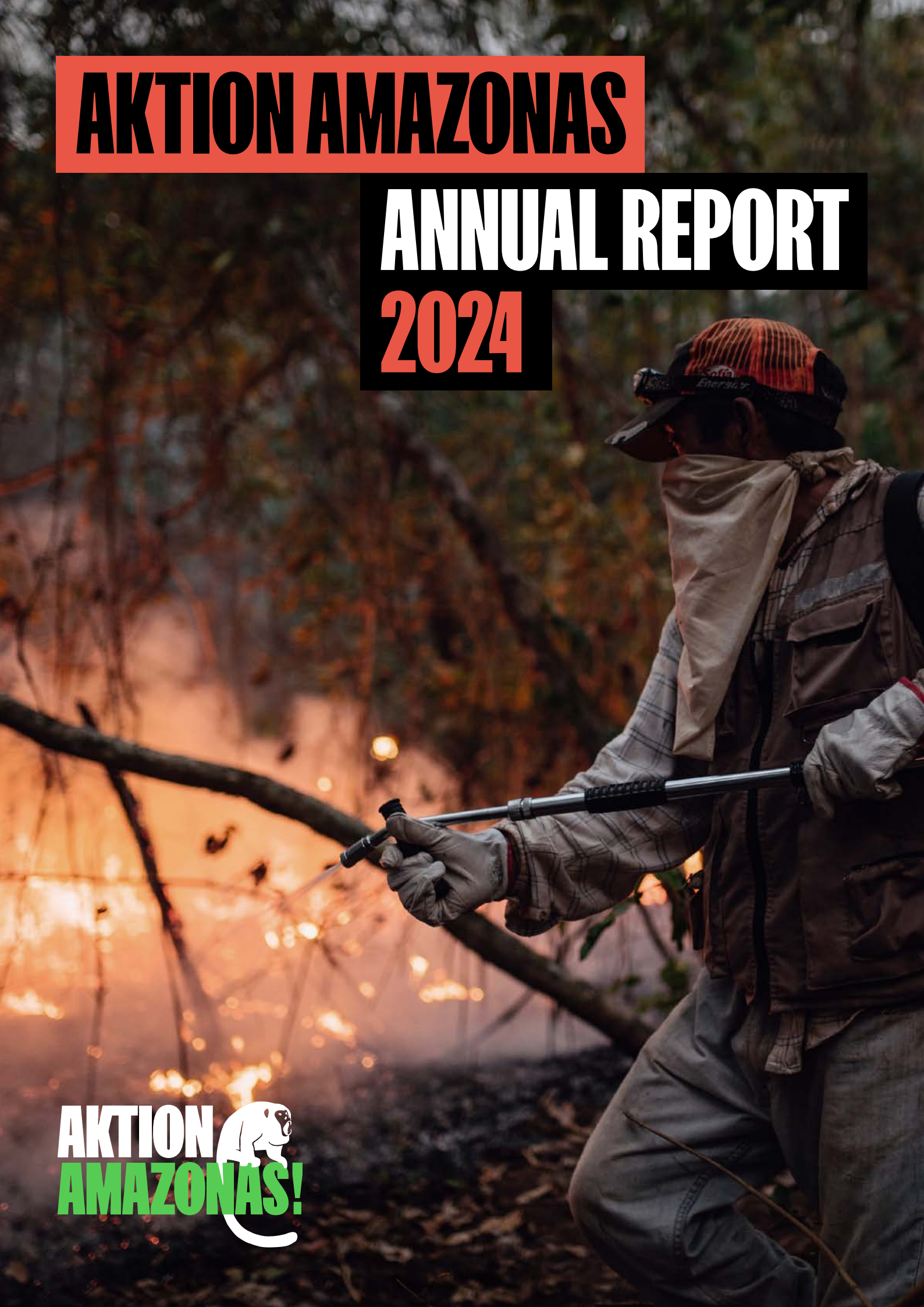


# AKTION AMAZONAS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

AKTION  
AMAZONAS!





# WORST WILDFIRES IN HISTORY

The photo shows a scorched forest path in the Santa Cruz region, one of the worst-affected areas last year.

2024 set a sad, historic record for the extent of forest fires in South America. An area bigger than the whole of Sweden and Norway combined was completely destroyed by fires in 2024. In Bolivia alone more than 10 million hectares burned, most of it in the department of Santa Cruz, where fires raged for months across forests, farmland, and protected areas. system plays a crucial role in regulating the global climate and supporting countless species, many of which are endemic to the region.

PHOTO: CLAUDIA BEALUNDE, FCBC

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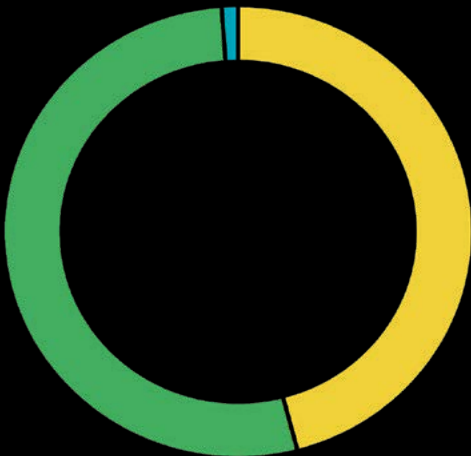
### 34 THANK YOU!

**AKTION AMAZONAS** is a nonprofit rainforest NGO working for the preservation of South Americas tropical forests, focusing on the Amazon and adjacent forest ecosystems.

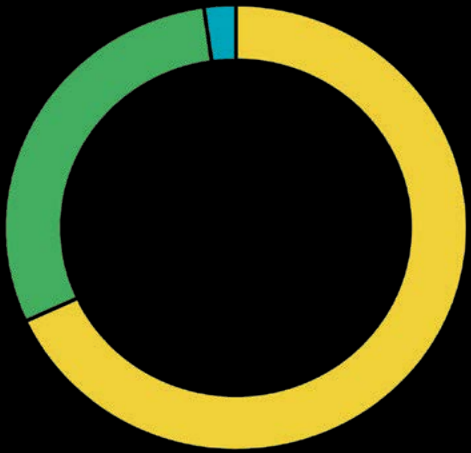


# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME.....	8.045.780 DKK
EXPENDITURES.....	7.959.008 DKK
ANNUAL RESULT.....	86.772 DKK
AVAILABLE EQUITY AS OF 31 DECEMBER.....	188.890 DKK



INCOME		2024
CISU CSP	DKK	3.695.728
OTHER PROJECTS	DKK	4.259.879
MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS	DKK	90.173
TOTAL	DKK	8.045.780



EXPENDITURE		2024
ACTIVITIES SOUTH AMERICA	DKK	5.421.317
ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK	DKK	2.361.746
ADMINISTRATION	DKK	175.945
TOTAL	DKK	7.959.008

Aktion Amazonas had a total turnover of 8,045,780 DKK in 2024. Grants from the Civil Society Fund amounted to 3,695,728 DKK, while other project funds accounted for 4,259,879 DKK.

We are thus well on our way toward greater income diversification and reduced dependency on the Civil Society Fund. The Civil Society Fund is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and administered by Civil Society in Development (CISU). The rise in other public and private projects is attributed to a strategic decision to diversify Aktion Amazonas' revenue.

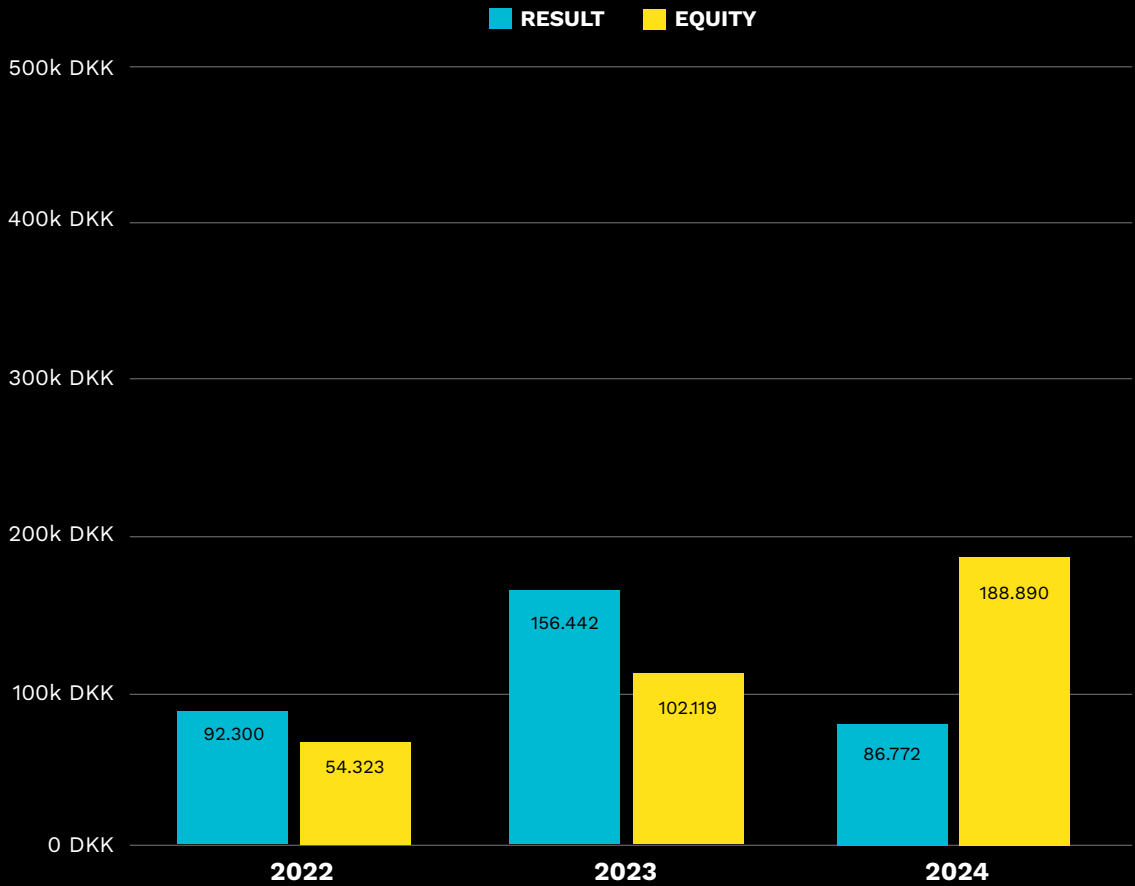
Membership fees, donations, etc., amounted to 90,173 DKK of the total income marking a minor increase compared to last year. In 2024, Aktion Amazonas allocated 5,421,317 DKK to nature conservation in South America, represen-

ting 68% of the organization's expenditure budget, while 30% of the budget was earmarked project activities in Denmark including information work, engagement activities and ressource mobilization.

Administrative expenses remain low at just one percent, as we strive to ensure that funds make a real difference through Danish and international activities. That's why we are mindful of keeping operational costs as low as possible.

The 2024 result shows a surplus of 86,772 DKK, which will be added to the equity to ensure stability, resilience, and the ability to invest in further development. As of December 31, 2024, the available equity amounted to 188,890 DKK - an increase of 134,567 DKK over the past two years.

## RESULT & EQUITY 2022-2024



# WHERE WE WORK ...

# WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO:

Our immediate focus area is the **Grand Arch of Tropical Forests in central-western South America**, stretching from eastern Bolivia on the border with Brazil and the Pantanal wetlands, all the way up to the edge of the Ecuadorian and Colombian Amazon. We have boots on the ground in **five major forest regions** and operate in more than **25 protected areas and indigenous territories**, in close collaboration with our local partners in the **South American Forest Conservation Alliance**.



PROTECTING **2 MILLION HA**  
OF BIODIVERSITY RICH  
RAINFOREST



IMPROVING FOREST-BASED  
LIVELIHOOD FOR **27.000**  
PEOPLE



PLANTED **65.000** TREES

# CHAIRPERSON' STATEMENT



**ANDERS HESSELLUND**  
CHAIRPERSON / **AKTION AMAZONAS**

In a year defined by both celebration and crisis, we marked the 10th anniversary of Aktion Amazonas with real progress. Together with our partners, volunteers, and supporters, we protected over 2 million hectares of rainforest, launched a bold international alliance, and stood strong amid growing global challenges. The fight to defend South America's forests has never been more urgent, or more united.

## AKTION AMAZONAS' NEW BOARD MEMBERS 2024-2026



**LARS ENGMARK**  
BOARDMEMBER /  
**AKTION AMAZONAS**



**GRITH NØRGAARD**  
BOARDMEMBER /  
**AKTION AMAZONAS**

As we reflect on 2024, we celebrate a year of dedicated efforts toward preserving South America's forests. A heartfelt thank you to all who have supported Aktion Amazonas! Your commitment has been instrumental in achieving our shared mission. Working alongside our three local partners in Bolivia and Peru, we reached a major milestone, securing the protection of 2 million hectares of rainforest.

This achievement was particularly meaningful as we marked the tenth anniversary of Aktion Amazonas in the company of friends, family and partners. Since our founding in 2014, our vision of safeguarding the Amazon has grown into a strong, action-driven organization with capable staff, reliable partners, and impactful conservation initiatives. This progress is thanks to you, our members, volunteers, and advisors, who contribute invaluable support and expertise. Our dedicated team has also played a crucial role in executing high-quality projects and advocacy campaigns.

We are pleased to welcome Lars Engmark and Grith Nørgaard to the board. Their knowledge and experience will further strengthen our work in the years ahead.

### **SAVING AS MUCH TROPICAL FOREST AS POSSIBLE**

Global attention on climate action and forest conservation has never been greater. Yet, civil society organizations face mounting challenges, with restricted operational space and reduced funding for essential environmental initiatives. Political uncertainty and instability make the world more unpredictable and harder to navigate.

Moreover, 2024 saw record-breaking wildfires across South America, with devastating losses in Peru, Brazil and Bolivia, where over 10 million hectares of forest were consumed. The effects of climate change are also becoming increasingly evident in South America, with prolonged droughts and



shifting weather patterns posing significant threats to local communities. Despite these challenges, Aktion Amazonas closed 2024 on a positive note, securing new project funding and maintaining financial stability. As we move forward into 2025, we remain committed to expanding our impact and pursuing our mission to protect as much tropical forest as possible. Forest conservation is a crucial tool in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.

#### CONNECTING TO CONSERVE

A key highlight of the year was the successful hosting of our third partnership conference, bringing together key stakeholders dedicated to rainforest conservation. Held in Madre de Dios, Peru, the conference culminated in the official launch of SAFCA, an international forest alliance that Aktion Amazonas has worked tirelessly to establish. SAFCA's mission is to protect a vast, continuous

rainforest area stretching from eastern Bolivia to Ecuador, an expanse spanning over 5,000 km.

#### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

As we enter 2025, Aktion Amazonas remains steadfast in its mission to protect the Amazon, now as part of the SAFCA alliance. We have ambitious plans for the year ahead, expanding our impact on the ground and raising awareness through social media and other engagement channels. We invite you to continue standing with us, as a member, a volunteer, or both. Your support is vital in driving real change for the future of the rainforest.

Thank you for being part of this journey!

**Anders Hesselund**  
Chairperson  
Aktion Amazonas



Anders Hesselund, Chairperson of AKAM, delivering a speech at AKAM's 10-year anniversary celebration. PHOTO: MAÍÁ GALMÉS FEUER, AKTION AMAZONAS



FOREST  
CONSERVATION IS  
A CRUCIAL TOOL  
IN THE FIGHT  
AGAINST CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND  
BIODIVERSITY  
LOSS





BY MAIA GALMÉS FEUER

# FOREST FIRES IN BOLIVIA OUT OF CONTROL!

Aktion Amazonas explores climate resilience strategies, such as water management and drought-resistant indigenous seeds in the face of drought and ecological desperation in Bolivia.





PHOTOS: CLAUDIA BEALUNDE, FCBC

also worked alongside local organizations and Indigenous communities to strengthen fire response efforts on the ground.

But **emergency aid is not enough**. The conditions that made this disaster possible, rising temperatures, illegal land grabbing, and uncontrolled deforestation, must be addressed. Political inaction and weak enforcement of environmental laws have allowed these fires to become a predictable, yearly catastrophe. Without stronger protections, the Amazon will continue to burn.

### **An area bigger than the whole of Sweden and Norway combined was completely destroyed by fires in 2024**

Moving forward, Aktion Amazonas will focus more on prevention. That means scaling up reforestation efforts in the most affected areas, training communities in fire-resistant agroforestry, and expanding education on fire prevention and sustainable land management.

We will also continue to push for stronger environmental protections and international accountability to stop these fires before they start.

2024 was the hottest year since temperature records began 175 years ago. And with that, it became the worst year for wildfires in the Amazon Rainforest's history.

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru all saw 860,000 km<sup>2</sup> of their trees, animals, and forest communities burn to the ground. In other words, an area bigger than the whole of Sweden and Norway combined was completely destroyed by fires in 2024.

The scale of destruction was not just environmental, it was human. Thousands of families lost their homes and crops, entire ecosystems were wiped out, and the air in major cities turned toxic from the smoke.

The fires also devastated Indigenous territories, destroying not just land but generations of knowledge and traditions rooted in the forest.

### **Without stronger protections, the Amazon will continue to burn.**

In response, Aktion Amazonas secured **emergency funding** from the Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF). These resources enabled us to equip volunteer fire brigades, provide essential tools, and deliver water and food assistance to families who lost everything. We





# CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is becoming more visible in South America, with long droughts and changing weather patterns putting ecosystems and communities in danger.

Each of the past ten years has been one of the ten warmest on record in history, and the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is now higher than at any point in the last 800,000 years. The Amazon Rainforest, which absorbs vast amounts of carbon dioxide and regulates global temperatures, is at risk at a time when we need it the most.

Bolivia, like much of the Amazon, has been struggling with severe drought since 2021. For four years now, the lack of rain has devastated people's livelihoods, dried up rivers, and put entire ecosystems under extreme stress.

Failed harvests, empty reservoirs, and the rapid spread of wildfires are just some of the consequences of this prolonged water crisis.

**Keeping forests standing is the most effective way to maintain water cycles, prevent further drought, and ensure the survival of those who depend on the Amazon for their way of life.**

For many communities in the Amazon, rain is more than a seasonal event, it is a lifeline. Without it, families lose access to clean drinking water, crops fail, and transportation by river, often the only way to reach other areas, becomes impossible.

The situation has become particularly critical for children. According to UNICEF, 420,000 children across the Amazon Rainforest have been left without enough food, water, or access to education due to the ongoing drought.

As rivers dry up and food sources shrink, many Indigenous and forest-dependent communities now face deepening isolation, displacement from their ancestral lands, and growing uncertainty about the future.

**Each of the past ten years has been one of the ten warmest on record in history**

In 2024, Aktion Amazonas expanded its climate adaptation work to address these urgent challenges. Building on our existing project in eastern Bolivia, we launched new initiatives in the Cusco region of Peru and the La Paz region of Bolivia.

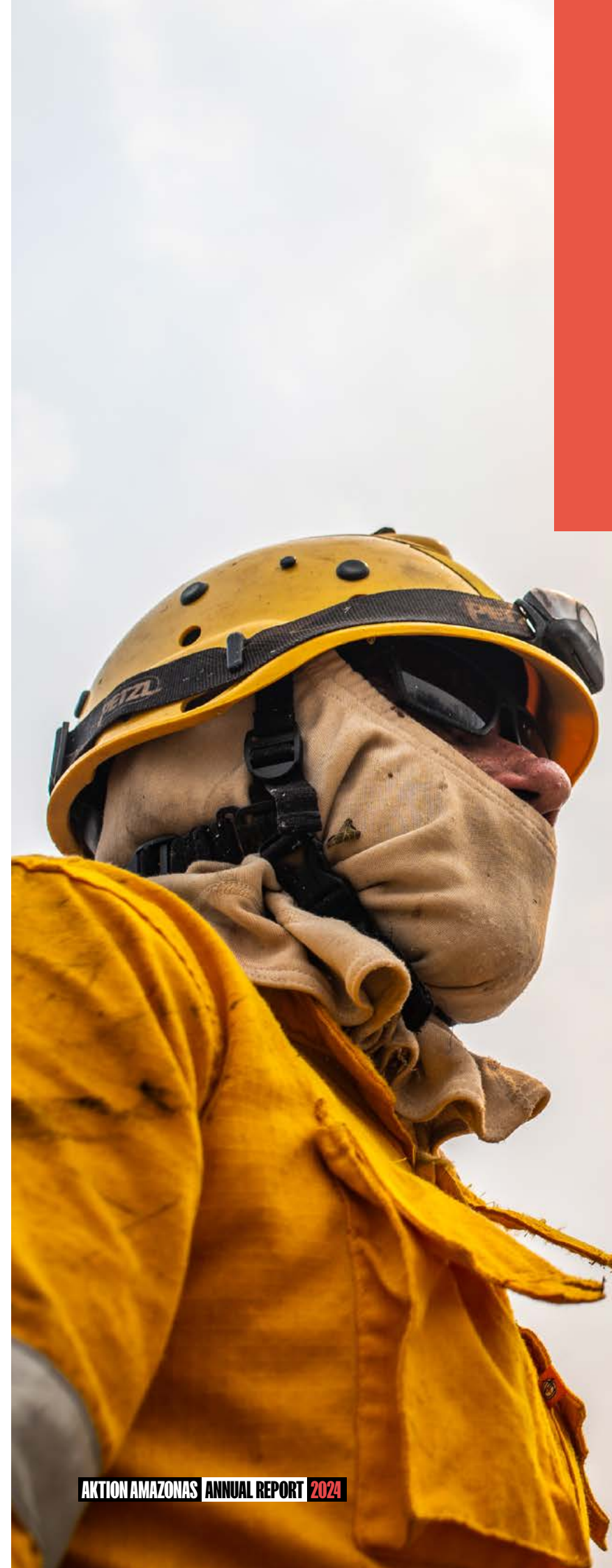
These projects focus on protecting natural water flows from the Andes to the Amazon through forest conservation and sustainable water management practices.

Keeping forests standing is the most effective way to maintain water cycles, prevent further drought, and ensure the survival of those who depend on the Amazon for their way of life.

Climate change is no longer a distant threat, it is happening now, and the Amazon is at the center of the crisis. Our work will continue to focus on solutions that protect both people and nature, securing access to water, food, and a future for the communities who have safeguarded the rainforest for generations.

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION CANNOT WAIT

Climate adaptation strategies include investing in early warning systems, supporting community-led fire brigades, restoring degraded forests to reduce flammable vegetation, and empowering Indigenous land stewardship, which has proven to be one of the most effective ways to prevent forest loss and fire spread. Without adaptation, climate-fueled disasters like these will continue to escalate, threatening biodiversity, regional stability, and the livelihoods of millions who depend on the forest.





# AKTION AMAZONAS!

The howler monkey is a territorial primate from South American rainforests, known for its loud, far-reaching calls. It faces threats like habitat loss, hunting, and deforestation. Some species are listed as Vulnerable or Endangered on the IUCN Red List.





BY MAIA GALMÉS FEUER

# BUILDING A NETWORK FOR THE FUTURE

Young leaders from Amazonian communities gathered in the Pando rainforest to spark a powerful youth movement for forest conservation in Bolivia.

In November 2024, the first Youth Conservation Summit took place in Puerto Rico, Pando, deep in the Bolivian Amazon rainforest. The event gathered 83 participants, including young conservationists from 11 communities, teachers, and organizers, all committed to protecting and understanding their local environment.

Hosted at the local university, this two-day summit was part of our project Youth Engagement for Nature Conservation in Bolivia and marked a significant step in enhancing youth participation in conservation efforts across the country.

The summit provided a space for young people to share their experiences and present projects developed through the EEPE (Enseñando Ecología en el Patio de la Escuela, or Teaching Ecology in the Schoolyard) method, which encourages students to observe and analyze their natural surroundings through a scientific lens, ending each project with reflections that spark new curiosity. Teachers, trained in EEPE beforehand, guided the students in shaping their projects and research.

This event marked the first of two gatherings of students and teachers involved in the Youth Engagement initiative, which we are carrying out together with our partners from Conserva-

ción Amazónica (ACEAA) and Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC), who will arrange the next youth summit, planned for May 2025 in Santa Cruz.

The goal of these summits is to raise awareness on environmental education and to create a national network of young people dedicated to conservation.

## STUDENT-LED PROJECTS

Throughout the summit, students presented their projects, tackling conservation from different perspectives. One of the most common responses when asked about their experience was how inspiring it was to see other students' work and explore ideas they had not considered before.

Students from the Conquista community identified waste management as a major issue at their school, initiating a project to collect and sort trash daily. They emphasized the urgency of action and stated that "It is necessary to do something very soon - Mother Earth is in trouble".

Clarissa, a student from Jérico, admitted she was nervous about participating in a summit for the first time but left feeling inspired by the recycling project in Conquista.



PHOTO: MARIA SCOTWIN, AKTION AMAZONAS





PHOTO: MARIA SCOTWIN, AKTION AMAZONAS

Participants of the Youth Conservation Summit in Pando pose for a group picture in November 2024.

Tree biodiversity and soil quality were other topics that students spoke about. It was specifically the students from the Batraja community who planted fruit trees around their school, driven by the need for shade, cooler spaces and biodiversity.

“When I think about the rainforest, I think about the sound of birds, and it makes me happy” one participant reflected. They deliberately avoid palm trees “to demonstrate that the biodiversity of the jungle is vast and that we have a lot more than palm trees”, stated a teacher.

The need for shade was also shared by the students from Carlos Ávila school in Puerto Rico, who emphasized the urgent need for shade and reforestation, as rising temperatures have made their surroundings increasingly difficult to live in.

Lastly, the students from the Mandarin community shared their work on flowering plants and herbs, underscoring the importance of smaller vegetation in the jungle ecosystem. Unfortunately, most of their plants did not survive a recent drought, illustrating the harsh environmental challenges they face.

#### A GROWING MOVEMENT

One of the key takeaways from the summit was the enthusiasm and curiosity of the young participants. Many expressed a desire to continue working

on conservation projects in the future.

However, Maria Scotwin, the education coordinator at Aktion Amazonas explains that in order for the youth to be involved and motivated in conserving the forest, they need continued guidance and support from adults.

“Many of these students had never been asked for their opinions on environmental issues before, and at first, they were shy about speaking. But by the end of the summit, when engaged by adults, even the quietest students had grown confident and were eager to share their insights and ideas”, describes Scotwin.

With over 100 young people now officially part of the youth conservation groups, they are in the process of electing leadership and structuring their efforts around four Community Nature Centers located in different Bolivian municipalities. By bringing young people together, exchanging ideas, and building networks, they are laying the groundwork for long-term engagement in conservation efforts.

The second Youth Conservation Summit planned for May 2025 in Santa Cruz will build upon these connections, further strengthening the conservation movement. As asserted by Scotwin, the energy and commitment shown at this first gathering prove that, “given the right opportunities, young people are ready to take an active role in protecting the Amazon rainforest for future generations”.



Aktion Amazonas has partnered with 'Posters' to bring you three Amazon posters as part of their 'The Good Poster' initiative

**50% of every purchase goes directly to Aktion Amazonas to protect and conserve the Amazon rainforest.**

Buy yours now here:

***posters.dk***

Select between three different posters





Linn Nordlund TTL and Isabella Nyborg TTR. PHOTO: TOKE NYBORG, AKTION AMAZONAS

# YOUNG AMBASSADORS TO THE BOLIVIAN RAINFOREST

**In fall, Aktion Amazonas launched the Amazonas Ambassadors initiative**, sending two young Danish volunteers, Isabella Nyborg and Linn Nordlund, aged 13 and 21 respectively in 2024, to Bolivia to experience and support local conservation efforts. The program aimed to connect Danish youth with those on the ground fighting to protect the Amazon rainforest. During their time in Bolivia, Isabella and Linn met with indigenous communities, environmental organizations, and rangers working to protect the forest and its wildlife. They gained firsthand insight into the threats facing the rainforest, from deforestation to climate change, and saw how local initiatives are working to protect biodiversity and indigenous lands. Upon returning to Denmark, they shared their experiences through presentations and social media, helping to raise awareness and inspire greater engagement in rainforest conservation. This initiative aimed for strengthening international connections, highlighting the importance of global collaboration in protecting the Amazon.



PHOTO: CARLA ZAVALA, ACCA

# CONFIRMING OUR CAPACITY FOR LONG-TERM IMPACT

**In 2024, Aktion Amazonas underwent an external evaluation** assessing the organization's capacity and the strengths of our local partners. The Organisational Capacity Assessment measured our ability to implement a multi-year program funded by CISU with support from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. An external advisor conducted interviews with staff and board members in Denmark and traveled to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, to hold focus group discussions with local partners. The evaluation confirmed that Aktion Amazonas has the capacity to successfully manage large-scale initiatives, demonstrating our organizational strength and effective collaboration with local partners. With this validation, our secretariat is moving forward with confidence in securing a formal program agreement to expand our work in the Amazon.





PHOTO: MAÍIA GALMÉS FEUER, AKTION AMAZONAS

# A DECADE OF **ACTION** FOR THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

**In 2024, Aktion Amazonas celebrated its 10th anniversary**, a decade of dedicated work to protect the Amazon rainforest. What began as a small group of passionate individuals determined to take meaningful action has grown into a strong organization with impactful conservation initiatives across South America.

Over the years, we have built lasting partnerships, expanded our reach, and successfully contributed to the protection of over 2 million hectares of rainforest in Bolivia and Peru. This milestone was marked alongside friends, family, and partners who have played a crucial role in our journey. As our director, Toke F. Nyborg reflected, "Ensuring a greener world for future generations needs steadfast dedication."

Our work is far from over, but this anniversary serves as a reminder of what can be achieved through collective effort. Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past ten years. We look forward to continuing the fight for the Amazon together.



PHOTO: MAÍIA GALMÉS FEUER, AKTION AMAZONAS

# SUPPORTING **SUSTAINABLE** FOREST LIVELIHOODS

**In July 2024, the Native Community of Infierno in Madre de Dios, Peru**, reached a major milestone by presenting its first organic chocolate at the International Cocoa and Chocolate Salon in Lima. Aktion Amazonas proudly supports initiatives like this, which demonstrate how sustainable economic activities can go hand in hand with rainforest conservation.

Produced through agroforestry practices that protect the Amazon, this chocolate represents years of dedication to responsible land use and indigenous-led development. By creating sustainable income opportunities, the community strengthens its resilience while preserving biodiversity.

At Aktion Amazonas, we believe that supporting local communities in developing sustainable alternatives is key to protecting the Amazon. The success of Infierno's organic chocolate is a powerful example of how conservation and economic opportunity can work together.



# OUR SUCCESSES 2024

Photo: Nelly Guerra, ACEAA



## WILDLIFE MONITORING

Our collaboration with Conservación Amazónica (ACEAA) led to the successful deployment of 771 camera traps across the Bolivian region of Pando. The devices captured images of 42 mammal species, including vulnerable species like the South American Tapir and the Northern Tiger Cat. The camera traps, installed by local community members trained during ACEAA's Monitoring Tools workshop, were strategically placed in areas frequented by wildlife. This method provided invaluable data on species distribution and behavior, enhancing our conservation strategies and reinforcing the importance of preserving these habitats.

## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Together with our partners from Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC), we launched a photovoice project in the Bajo Paraguará region of Bolivia. This initiative empowered local communities to document and share their realities, values, and needs through photography. Participants captured images reflecting their daily lives and cultural heritage, helping to deepen understanding of their perspectives. The project encouraged local advocacy and also strengthened community bonds. By providing a platform for these voices, we helped ensure that future conservation and development efforts align with the community's vision.



Photo: Claudia Belaunde, FCBC



Photo: Carla Zavala, ACCA

## FORMALIZING SAFCA

Together with our partners, we participated in the III Workshop of the SAFCA Alliance in Puerto Maldonado, Peru. This gathering brought experts and professionals together to exchange knowledge on forest conservation, share data on the state of their regions, and discuss technological advancements in combating illegal activities. A key milestone of the workshop was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by executive directors, formalizing the establishment of the alliance with Conservación Amazónica (ACCA), Conservación Amazónica (ACEAA) and Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC).

Photo: iStock



## A DECADE OF CONSERVATION

2024 marked ten years of Aktion Amazonas working to protect the Amazon rainforest. Together with our partners, donors, and supporters, we reflected on a decade of dedication to forest conservation in South America. What began as a small initiative has grown into a strong organization engaged in projects across the region. Today, in alliance with three key partners, we help protect over 2 million hectares of rainforest in Peru and Bolivia. Toke F. Nyborg, director of Aktion Amazonas, explained how this progress would not have been possible without the trust and commitment of those who stood by us from the start. He also stated that as we look ahead, we remain determined to continue this fight for the Amazon. "Our objective 10 years ago and now remains the same: to save as much tropical forest as possible", stated Nyborg.

## JOINING CISU BOARD

Our director, Toke F. Nyborg, was elected to CISU - Civilsamfund i Udvikling's board for a two-year term. This opportunity allowed us to take an active role in shaping decisions that impact civil society organizations in Denmark and beyond. It also contributed to strengthening collaboration within the association and ensuring a transparent and inclusive approach to the ongoing fund reform. "I am confident that our efforts will develop a solution that enhances financial security for all members. That's certainly my objective" explained Nyborg. He also highlighted the importance of collective input, stating that "by sharing valuable insights with CISU, we can enrich both the process and the final outcome".



Photo: Per Strange



Photo: Claudia Belaunde, FCBC

## NEW PROTECTED AREA

Through our partners from Conservación Amazónica (ACEAA), we added another protected area to the Gran Arch of Tropical Forests in the central-western Amazon basin, in the municipality of San Ramón, Bolivia. This added 199,435 hectares of savannas, lowland forests, and high-biodiversity ecosystems to Bolivia's National System of Protected Areas. The achievement, led by the local government since 2019, was made possible through collaboration with rural landowners, local communities, and conservation professionals. The designation not only strengthens environmental protection, cultural heritage, and water regulation in the Amazon, but also promotes nature conservation among the local population. We are proud to work on safeguarding the region's natural resources.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JULY





## EMERGENCY FIRE RESPONSE

With wildfires devastating Bolivia, surpassing the damage of the 2019 Amazon fires, urgent action was needed. In response, we redirected 117,000 DKK from ongoing local projects to provide immediate support in affected areas. This decision, made in consultation with funders from Civilsamfund i Udvikling (CISU), allowed for targeted assistance through our partners at Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC). The funds provided essential aid, including medicine for respiratory illnesses and burns, drinking water distribution, firefighting equipment, and protective gear for volunteers. These efforts addressed both human and environmental impacts, as the fires endangered not only communities but also Amazonian wildlife, including species like the black-tailed marmoset and the yellow-footed tortoise.

## NEW EMERGENCY FUND

After months of uncontrolled forest fires, we were able to demonstrate the emergency character of this situation and therefore receive emergency funding for the affected Bolivian communities and fire brigades. Through the Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF), we obtained funding to provide direct aid to over 4,500 people across 21 indigenous communities in Santa Cruz. Managed by our partners at Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC), this support ensured access to food, clean water, and essential safety equipment for volunteer firefighters. Ditlev Damhus, the DERF coordinator, emphasized the urgency of the situation: "With this funding, we can ensure that vulnerable people have their basic needs met, allowing them to remain in their homes rather than relocating elsewhere".



Photo: Claudia Belaunde, FCBC



Photo: Bruno Kelly, Ritzaü Scapix

## CVCA INTRODUCED

Together with our partners from Conservación Amazónica (ACCA), we introduced the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) method to communities in the Ausangate Regional Conservation Area in Peru. This enabled them to identify and address climate risks. Increasingly severe droughts, frosts, and hailstorms had been threatening their water supply and alpaca-based livelihoods, making climate adaptation crucial. Through this participatory approach, communities mapped climate threats, assessed vulnerabilities, and developed solutions. Their plans after working with CVCA included water-retention systems, wetland restoration, and resource protection to strengthen resilience. This initiative empowered local communities to create sustainable strategies that protect both their environment and way of life.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Amazon Rainforest spans nine countries: Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana.

Covering approximately 6 million square kilometers, it represents **over half of the world's remaining tropical rainforests**.

This vast expanse is home to an estimated 390 billion individual trees, encompassing around 16,000 different species.

Its intricate ecosystem plays a crucial role in regulating the global climate and supporting countless species, many of which are endemic to the region.

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER





BY MAIA GALMÉS FEUER

# 2024: A YEAR OF GREEN PROMISES WITHOUT ACTION

Reflecting on 2024, a year of climate promises challenged by political resistance, financial hurdles, and slow progress in the transition to a greener future.

2024 has seen unprecedented political and institutional attention on green transition, climate adaptation, and forest conservation. Denmark, the European Union, and the international community have reinforced commitments to climate action through major policies and global negotiations.

However, this was also a year marked by increasing skepticism and political resistance, especially from conservative sectors questioning the cost and feasibility of climate policies.

Hence, the broader trend of 2024 has been one of contradiction: ambitious climate promises clashing with policy rollbacks and continued investment in fossil fuels.

**Denmark**, in particular, advanced its renewable energy agenda, particularly in the state's plan to expand offshore wind, while also implementing stronger biodiversity protection projects. The state is also working toward meeting its 2020 Danish Climate Act, which aims for a 70% reduction in all domestic greenhouse gas emissions compared to emissions in 1990.

However, the rising costs of the green transition have led to renewed debate over how much households and industries should bear. Additionally, the current geopolitical instability and rising international conflicts have raised concerns over energy security, complicating Denmark's ability to move away from natural gas as quickly as planned.

The case of the **European Union** mirrors Denmark in making 2024 a year of both progress and setbacks in green policy. The EU took key steps with its Nature Restoration Law and Deforestation Regulation, both aimed at protecting ecosystems and reducing imported products linked to deforestation. However, industry pushback, political shifts, including the rise of climate-skeptical parties, and rising tensions over the cost of green policies weakened its global sustainability pledge. At the same time, fossil fuel subsidies persist, undermining the EU's ability to fully align its economic policies with climate commitments.

## A GLOBAL PATTERN

On a **global scale**, the green policy dynamic follows the same pattern, as seen in the outcomes of international summits like COP16 and COP29, which reinforced commitments and measures for green progress but left enforcement and financial backing as ongoing challenges.

**COP16 in Colombia** focused on implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly in efforts to combat deforestation, as well as emphasizing Indigenous participation and establishing the Cali Fund for biodiversity financing. However, funding commitments from wealthier nations fell short, delaying concrete action.

**COP29 in Baku** aimed to hold developed countries accountable for their long-standing promises to fund climate adaptation in vulnerable nations. While agreements were made to expand financial support, many commitments lacked binding enforcement mechanisms. Furthermore, major oil-producing nations retained significant influence, preventing stronger agreements on phasing out fossil fuels.

Hence, both summits underscored the ongoing gap between climate diplomacy and real-world policy implementation.

Seeing that the cases of Denmark, the EU, and the international community are so similar brings us to reflect on this ambiguity, or even hypocritical behavior, as a general global trend in climate policies. While political and institutional focus on climate action is stronger than ever and policies continue to evolve, financial commitment remains a fragile issue.

Without sustained financing, political consensus on prioritizing green policies, and stronger enforcement, many climate commitments risk remaining utopian and failing to materialize into meaningful change.





**THANK YOU** to our members who support our work and create a strong foundation for our efforts to conserve South America's unique and globally significant forest ecosystems.

To all the volunteers who assist us on a daily basis and support Aktion Amazonas' activities.

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